

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle trim panel, comprising:

an inner panel having a first flexibility and having an inner surface, an outer surface, and a perimeter edge having an exposed surface generally extending around the inner and outer surfaces, the inner panel configured for attachment to a vehicle body such that the exposed surface is spaced apart from the vehicle body to define a gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body when so attached; and

~~a flexible~~ an outer panel having a second flexibility greater than the first flexibility covering at least a portion of the outer surface of the inner panel and extending beyond the perimeter edge, the [[flexible]] outer panel configured to contact the vehicle body when the inner panel is attached to the vehicle body so as to close the gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body and thereby prevent or reduce the ingress of air, moisture or noise into a vehicle passenger compartment to reduce a gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body.

2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle trim panel of claim 1, wherein the inner panel and the [[flexible]] outer panel are molded together.

3. (Original) The vehicle trim panel of claim 2, wherein the inner panel is molded from one of thermoplastic olefin (TPO) or polypropylene (PP).
4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle trim panel of claim 2, wherein the ~~[[flexible]]~~ outer panel is molded from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).
5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle trim panel of claim 2, wherein the inner panel and the ~~[[flexible]]~~ outer panel are molded together using a two shot molding process.
6. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:
a vehicle body;
a vehicle trim panel, the vehicle trim panel including an inner panel having a first flexibility and having an inner surface, an outer surface, and a perimeter edge having an exposed surface generally extending around the inner and outer surfaces, the inner panel attached ~~configured for attachment~~ to the vehicle body such that the exposed surface is spaced apart from the vehicle body to define a gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body; and
~~a flexible~~ an outer panel having a second flexibility greater than the first flexibility covering at least a portion of the outer surface of the inner panel and extending beyond the perimeter edge, the ~~[[flexible]]~~ outer panel ~~configured to contact~~ contacting the vehicle body so as to close the gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body and

thereby prevent or reduce the ingress of air, moisture or noise into a vehicle passenger compartment ~~to reduce a gap between the inner panel and the vehicle body.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle claim 6, wherein the inner panel and the ~~[[flexible]]~~ outer panel are molded together.

8. (Original) The vehicle of claim 7, wherein the inner panel is molded from one of thermoplastic olefin (TPO) or polypropylene (PP).

9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle trim claim 7, wherein the ~~flexible~~ outer panel is molded from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle trim panel of claim 7, wherein the inner panel and the ~~[[flexible]]~~ outer panel are molded together using a two shot molding process.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing a gap between a vehicle trim panel having an outer surface and a vehicle body comprising:

depositing a ~~[[flexible]]~~ covering having a first flexibility over at least a portion of the outer surface of the vehicle trim panel having a second flexibility less than the first flexibility so that a portion of the ~~flexible~~ covering extends beyond an outer exposed edge of the vehicle trim panel; and

positioning the portion of the flexible covering that extends beyond the outer exposed edge of the vehicle trim panel against the vehicle body to reduce the gap between the vehicle trim panel and the vehicle body.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~[[flexible outer panel]]~~ covering is deposited in a molding process.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising, molding the ~~[[inner]]~~ trim panel from one of thermoplastic olefin (TPO) or polypropylene (PP).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising, molding the ~~[[flexible outer panel]]~~ covering from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising, molding the ~~[[inner]]~~ trim panel and the ~~flexible outer panel~~ covering together in a two shot molding process.